

Spring, 2007

Good Neighbor Policy approved by Board

The Sacramento River Conservation Area Forum (SRCAF) Board approved the long awaited Good Neighbor Policy (GNP), by an 8-3 vote, at its March meeting in Willows. The GNP addresses concerns voiced by landowners and agencies alike. Some county representatives felt that it did not require enough protection for landowners.

The volunteer GNP Subcommittee consists of three landowners, two public interest representatives and two agency representatives. The group collaborated to develop the current policy which covers the Sacramento River Conservation Area (SRCA) - the 100 year floodplain between Keswick Dam and Verona.

The first policy action of the document, regarding communication and project review, was previously adopted in 2003. The second policy action involves the SRCA mitigation area and regulatory assurances for landowners. This section promotes activities which provide significant benefits to fish, wildlife, and their habitats within the Conservation Area, and allows "take" of listed species which might occur incidentally. The third section covers conflict resolution, the facilitation of a voluntary process between project activities and neighboring landowners.

The policy was approved last May as a White Paper or working docu-

ment. A Public Meeting was held last August, and over 120 days have been allowed for comments. Since that time many changes have been made, but the principles remain the same, "to promote communication and understanding among neighbors.

SRCAF is a non-profit organization that endorses and encourages project proponents to use good science when developing projects, include neighbors and local officials, consider buffers and/or barriers, prevent or reduce loss of revenues, measure benefits and impacts, and adhere to local land use guidelines. For more information on the Forum, go online to: sacramentoriver.ca.gov

SRCAF business report

The SRCAF 2006 Annual Report has been completed. It includes SRCAF history, collaboration, background, the Board of Directors, activities and committee efforts, the SRCAF Work Schedule, map of projects, list of projects reviewed and the Advisory Council members.

During the review of the report, SRCAF Manager, Burt Bundy stressed to the Board members their responsibility to report what is going on in their individual jurisdictions.

Two new Board members were appointed to the SRCAF Board in January: Keith Hansen, Butte County Public Interest Representative; and Knute Myers, Colusa County Landowner Representative.

Burt has announced his retirement effective June 30. He stated he leaves with mixed feelings, but sees this as an opportunity for the Board to take ownership in the management position. He reported the Board has done a good job in preventing problems, and expressed his confidence

in the staff and Board to move forward. A Selection Committee has been put in place to assist with the process for selecting a new manager.



Mike Inamine, DWR, gave a PowerPoint presentation to the SRCAF Board on the emergency and critical flood system repairs.

Technical Advisory Committee

January - Jewett Creek Restoration (*Project Tracker 121*) was presented. TNC sold the property to the Ginno family with a conservation easement in January 2006. Goals include restoring 87 acres to wildlife habitat. 140 acres will remain in walnuts. There will be yearly monitoring until 2032. This project met the principles and guidelines of the SRCAF handbook. This project and *Wilson Landing* will be considered for WCB funding.

River Partners gave an update on *Del Rio* (*RM175*).

Aric Lester, DWR, reported on the emergency work that has been done along RM 182. SRCAF sent a letter to Rod Mayer, Chief, Division of Flood Mgmt. asking to share information.

February - Tisdale Weir Channel Rehabilitation Project (*RM 119*) was presented by DWR. The weir has a

design capacity of 38,000cfs. A survey is scheduled to account for the accumulation of sediment. Landowners have been consulted. No land will be taken out of production. The bridge will be relocated over the weir, going from 37 piers to 9. Proposed construction will begin in July.

The Programmatic Safe Harbor discussion included suggestions by those in attendance (see story below).

River Partners gave an update on the Llano Seco Riparian Sanctuary project. A letter of funding has been received for the cooperative project.

TNC is expecting to be under contract in April through the CALFED Sci-



Ajay Singh
TAC Chairman

ence Program monitoring grant.

March - CSP reported holding their first hydraulic analysis subcommittee meeting. The model is calibrated against surface water elevations with existing design flow compared to 1957 data.

Tehama County is getting ready to install two groundwater monitoring wells in order to start identifying stream flow and environmental mixes. They also reported on the completion of the Tehama County Flood Mitigation Plan, part of which includes the area in Antelope Creek and Craig Creek and what can be done in the future to alleviate flooding in the Dairyville and Corning areas.

The supplemental EA, for hunting on F&W Refuge properties is available.

URS and DWR reported on critical repairs (see story following page).

For TAC meeting minutes please go to www.sacramentoriver.ca.gov

Safe Harbor

A draft of the Programmatic Safe Harbor (SH) agreement for Landowner Assurances within the SRCA is being developed, along with a matrix for concerned species.

The CSUC Monitoring grant and SRCAF Working Landscapes grant are being funded in time to obtain aerial photography for the 2007 season. This will allow the establishment of habitat baselines for the entire conservation area as part of the SH.

Landowners would sign up on a voluntary basis and shifting baseline may be handled programmatically or neighbor to neighbor.

The overall goal is to provide landowner assurances while creating net conservation benefit for habitat and species along the river.

Meetings with F&W and DFG are being held to discuss assurances and document details, including wording to protect flood control entities, pumping plants, and other concerned interests.

Sacramento River Restoration Science Conference

**April 9-10, 2007
9:00AM-4:30PM**

Bidwell Park Room, Bell Memorial Union
CSU Chico

Day 1

The past, present and future of Sacramento River restoration, integrating restoration with human needs, transboundary issues, restoration management tools.

Day 2
Vegetation, wildlife, geomorphology and fish.

This conference is intended to expand participant's knowledge about the Sacramento River, promote new collaborative relationships, and improve the way restoration is done in this important watershed.

Hosted by TNC and SRCAF



Q. A living tree contains what percent of water?

A. It is just like the human brain, which is also 75% water.

Critical erosion repairs questioned

Loren Murray, Senior Program Manager, URS Corporation, gave a DWR Critical Erosion Repairs Status Briefing PowerPoint presentation at the March TAC.

The original 24 critical erosion repairs included 14 sites to be repaired by USACE and ten by DWR. Forty PL84-99 Rehabilitation Program repairs include Order 1 sites-protecting urban areas-with significant scour and erosion; 19 repaired by USACE, 13 repaired by Brannan Andrus Island Local Maintenance District, and eight repaired by DWR. Seven Order 2 sites-protecting undeveloped areas-with high benefits cost ratio include four repaired by DWR and three repaired by USACE. There are 341 deferred sites.

Efforts to protect the environment were reviewed. The levee repairs will incorporate environmental features to mitigate impacts including: protect and replant vegetation in water and on benches, include woody material to compensate for fish habitat impacts, avoid VELB habitat, and pre-survey for sensitive bird species such as Bank Swallow, Swainson's hawk and burrowing owls.

River Mile 182 was reviewed. Concerns included: no communication, no planning, previous decisions not to re-



Loren Murray



River Mile 182 levee repair plus 3,000 additional feet of bank revetment. Total cost of project: \$15 million.

store, lack of scientific basis-including geologic control, and no contact with anyone that understood the property. Loren reported that the template preserves the integrity of the certified levee. The decision to expand was made by the design team on site, and Northern District DWR input was not included.

Impacts to the Bank Swallow habitat were questioned. Loren noted that sites are being looked at to remove rock elsewhere, in order to re-expose bank for potential habitat. Opportunities are also being looked at in order to improve communications next time.

The biological opinion for both the Corps and DWR sites, including on-site and off-site mitigation plans, are now being developed. On-site plans are available on the SRCAF website. Construction is expected to be completed on all sites by October, with a final accounting of mitigation at that time.

**DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

Public Workshops 2007 Emergency Levee Repairs

In a continuing effort to prevent massive flooding, damage to property, and loss of life, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (the Corps) will be conducting emergency repairs on levee sites along the Sacramento River, Butte Creek, and the Bear River.

DWR recognizes that public involvement by elected officials, civic officials, business leaders, community organizations, and the general public is vital to the overall success of the program. Accordingly, DWR, in close coordination with the Corp and with the support of the Sacramento River Conservation Area Forum (SRCAF), is conducting a public meeting in Chico to provide up-to-date information and solicit community feedback pertaining to the levee repair sites detailed on the locator map.

DWR, Corps, and SRCAF staff will be on hand to answer any questions, provide detailed information, and disseminate educational materials.

If you have questions regarding the Critical Levee Erosion Repair Project, please call:

**Elizabeth Scott - DWR Public Information Officer
(916) 835-5344 - mescott@water.ca.gov**

**April 11, 2007 City of Chico Chamber of Commerce
6:00 p.m.**

300 Salem Street, Chico, CA 95928

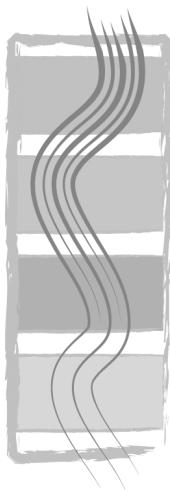
Map: A map showing the locations of DWR sites along the Sacramento River, Butte Creek, and Bear River. Key points labeled include BUC 0.8 L, 182.0 R, 99.5 R, and BEA 1.2 L. Roads like 70, 99, and 66 are also shown. A scale bar indicates 0 to 10 miles.

LEVEE SITES TO BE DISCUSSED

For more information about site locations and construction progress, please visit DWR's emergency repair web site at: www.levees.water.ca.gov



The rip-rapping of natural stream bank associated with bank protection projects is the single most serious, human-caused threat to the long-term survival of the bank swallow in CA. It is projected that as much as 50% of the remaining population could be lost if all bank protection projects currently proposed are completed. Although a State Recovery Plan for the bank swallow was adopted in 1992, implementation has not occurred. Habitat preserves and a return to a natural, meandering riverine ecosystem are the two primary strategies for recovery.



sacramento river conservation area forum

a voice for all interests

2440 Main Street
Red Bluff, CA 96080

The SRCAF 2007 Board of Directors

- **Ron Warner, Tehama County**
- **Marc Faye, Yolo County**
- **Keith Hansen, Glenn County**
- **Knute Myers, Colusa County**
- **Don Anderson, Glenn County**
- **Jane Dolan, Butte County**
- **Dan Gover, Shasta County**
- **Shirley Lewis, Butte County**
- **Dan Silva, Sutter County**
- **Lynnell Pollock, Yolo County**
- **Gary Evans, Colusa County**

Ex-Officio Members:

- Basia Trout, Bureau of Reclamation**
Catrina Martin, U.S. F&WS
Frank Piccola, Corps of Engineers
Sandy Morey, Department of Fish & Game
Maureen Doherty, The Reclamation Board
Glen Pearson, Department of Water Resources

Burt Bundy, Manager
(530) 528-7411 bundy@water.ca.gov
Ellen Gentry, Administrative Assistant
Beverley Anderson-Abbs, Resource Conservationist

Russell Young ~ Chair, Sutter County
Jim McEvitt ~ Vice Chair, Resources Agency
Brendon Flynn~ Sec./Treas., Tehama County
Glenn Hawes ~ Past Chair, Shasta County

Calendar of Events

- TAC meeting**
May 8, 9:30a.m. to 12noon
Willows City Hall
- SRCAF Board meeting**
May 17, SRCAFBoard Meeting
Monday Afternoon Club, Willows
- Colusa Subreach Advisory Workgroup meetings**
June 4, 10:00a.m. to 2:00p.m.
Colusa Industrial Properties, Colusa
- Sacramento River Science Conference**
April 9-10, BMU Bidwell Park Room, Chico
- DWR Public Workshop-2007 Emergency Levee Repairs**
April 11, 6p.m.
City of Chico Chamber of Commerce, Chico

